(ii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs including Maharashtra to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iii) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.

(iv) A network of protected areas has been established.

(v) Government have released an amount of Rs. 1.90 crores under the Integrated Forest Protection Schemes and sanctioned 23 Projects with a fund release of Rs. 13.75 crores under the National Aforestation Programme during Tenth Plan, in Maharashtra.

Distribution of money for Infrastructure Development

1918. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question No. 68 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 2003 and state:

(a) how Government are going to disburse the amount approved for Infrastructure Development to various food processing industries in the country; and

(b) whether any kind of special package is being worked out for the uplift of Tribal belts of Orissa under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is sanctioned to various implementing agencies, based on complete and viable project proposals received as per guidelines laid down. The assistance is released through banks/FIs after completion of procedural formalities. The assistance under the plan schemes is project specific and not State specific. However, enhanced rate of assistance is available to projects located in difficult areas, which includes Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas in all States including Orissa.